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North Devon Cattle.

The New York State Agricultural Society have recently agreed upon and adopted the following as the points of this breed of cattle:

Purity of blood, as traced back satisfactorily to importations of both dam and sire, from known English breeders, or as found in the lately established Herd Book for North Devons, and without which an animal cannot compete in this class.

The head should be small, lean and bony, the forehead wide, flat, or from a fullness of the frontal bone over the eyes, somewhat dishing; the face straight; the muzzle fine; the nostrils open; the lips thin and rather flat.

The nose of a light, delicate orange color.

The eye should be bright, prominent and clear, and mild and gentle in its expression, as indicative of that spirited but tractable disposition so necessary to cattle that must bear the yoke; a beautiful orange colored ring should invariably surround the eye.

The ear thin, of a rich orange color within, of medium size, with a quick and ready movement, suggestive of attention.

The horns light, tapering, of a waxy color toward the extremity, and gaily as well as symmetrically placed on the head; the occipital bone narrow, thus bringing the base of the horns nearer together.

The neck of medium length, somewhat light in substance, very clean, and well set upon the shoulder.

The chest deep and round, carrying its fullness all back of the elbows, thus affording, by the aid of a springing rib, abundant internal room for the thoracic viscera, the heart and lungs, and that too without an extreme width forward, and between the joints of the shoulders, which might interfere with the action of the animal.

The brisket—it being assumed that it adds nothing to the internal capacity of the chest—must not overload the breast, but be sufficiently developed to guarantee a feeding property, attended with full proportion of fatty secretion.

The shoulder is, in this breed, a very beautiful and important point, and should, in a degree, approximate in form to that of the horse. It should be a more sloping position than is found in most other breeds, with its points less projecting and angular, and the blade bone more curved, thus ending with and forming a fine wither, rising a little above the level line of the back.

The crops full and even, forming a true line with a somewhat rising shoulder and level back, without either drop or hollow.

Back, loin and hips, broad and wide, running on level with the setting on of the tail.

The rumps lying broad apart, high and well covered.

The pelvis wide.

The twist full and broad.

The quarters long and thoroughly filled up between the hooks, or hip bones, and the rumps, with good muscular development down the thigh to the hocks.

The flank moderately deep, full and mellow in proportion to condition.

The legs not too short, and standing as square as straight behind as may be compatible with activity. The bone quite small below the hock and the sinews large and clean, with the fore arm well developed.

The carcass round and straight; its posterior ribs most circular, extending well back, and springing nearly horizontal from the vertebra, giving, in much greater capacity than would at first appear.

The tail, at its junction, level with the back, very slender in its cord, and finished with a seal of white hair.

The color, in its shades and degrees, is more or less governed by fashion; but in the Devon is always red. Formerly a rich blood red was the favorite color, and a test of purity; and now a somewhat lighter color is in vogue, approaching rather nearer to that of the South Devon, which is a darker, coarser, stronger animal. In all cases the hair grows lighter round the muzzle, while a dark rosy color, verging almost to a black, and being yet darker about the head, always was a questionable color for a true North Devon, and especially when accompanied by a dark nose.

The hair should be short, thick and fine; and if waving on its surface a fine curl, or ripple, it looks better in color, and is supposed to indicate a hardier and thrifty animal.

The udder should be such as will afford the best promise of capacity and product.

Carriage.—The Devons having, from their excellence in the yoke, another destiny besides that of the butcher's block, it is all-important that the animal's carriage should indicate as much; but to obtain this, something of the heavy, inert, squarely moulded frame of the merely beefing animal must be relinquished for a lighter and more active frame.

Quality.—On this the thriftiness, the feeding properties and the value of the animal depends; and upon the touch of this quality rests, in a good measure, the grazier's and the butcher's judgment. If the "touch" be good, some deficiency of form may be excused; but if it be hard and stiff, nothing can compensate for so unpromising a feature. In raising the skin from the body, between the thumb and finger, it should have a soft, flexible and substantial feel; and when beneath the outspread hand, it should move easily with it and under it, as though resting on a soft, elastic cellular substance, which however becomes firmer as the animal "ripens." A thin papery skin is objectionable, more especially in a cold climate.

Points of the Devon Bull.—As regards the male animal, it is only necessary to remark that the points desirable in the female are generally so in the male, but must, of course, be attended by that masculine character which is inseparable from a strong, vigorous constitution. Even a certain degree of coarseness is admissible, but then it must be so exclusively of a masculine description as never to be discovered in the females of his get.

In contradistinction to the cows, the head of the bull may be shorter, the frontal bone broader, and the occipital flat and stronger, that it may receive and sustain the horn; and this latter may be excused if a little heavy at the base, so its upward form, its quality and color be right. Neither is the looseness of the skin attached to and depending from the under jaw to be deemed other than a feature of the sex, provided it is not extended beyond the bone, but leaves the gullet and throat clean and free from dewlap.

The upper portion of the neck should be full and muscular, for it is an indication of strength, power and constitution. The spine should be strong, the bones of the loin long and broad, and the whole muscular system wide and thoroughly developed over the entire frame.

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